

## **REMARKS**

The Office Action mailed February 5, 2008 has been carefully considered along with the references cited therein. In the Office Action, claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,488,681). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mita et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Rathod et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0139928) or Grossman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,892,591). Claims 1-6, 8-10, 14-25 and 27-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomiita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,576,636). Claims 32-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grossman (U.S. Patent No. 6,285,137) in view of Tomiita et al. in view of Tikhman (U.S. Patent No. 5,646,358). Claims 32-34 were rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 6 of U.S. Patent No. 6,892,591 in view of either Tomiita et al. or Mita.

In this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 8, 9, 12, and 13. Claims 32 – 34 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 35 and 36 have been added to the application.

### ***§ 112, first paragraph rejections***

Claim 1 has been amended to remove the phrase “to form drops on the specimen and wherein the specimen support is shaped to allow excess liquid to run off the associated specimen so that the associated specimen is not immersed in the associated liquid solution.” Claim 1 has also been amended to remove the phrase “other than water.” In view of these claim amendments, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner remove the § 112, first paragraph rejections.

### **§ 112, second paragraph rejections**

Claim 1 has been amended to remove the phrase "other than water." In view of this claim amendment, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner remove the § 112, second paragraph rejections.

### **§ 103 rejections**

Claim 1 has been amended to include some, but not all, of the limitations recited in original claim 12 and is believed to define over the cited references. In the Office action, no prior art rejections were raised against original claim 12. Neither Mita et al. nor Tomiita et al., which were cited against claim 1 (from which original claim 12 depended) disclose a multiple blower system and a temperature controller where the temperature controller receives data from a first temperature sensor and a second temperature sensor and controls the blower system in response to the data received. Accordingly, claim 1 and those claims that depend from claim 1 should be found patentable over the cited references. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner remove the § 103 rejections to claim 1 and those claims that depend from claim 1.

Applicants respectfully traverse the § 103 rejection of claim 19. Claim 19 recites "wetting the test specimen with a corrosive solution such that drops form on a surface of the test specimen." Tomiita et al. fail to disclose wetting the test specimen such that drops form on the test specimen. To the contrary, Tomiita et al. disclose dipping the sample in corrosive ionized water solution (e.g. an acidic solution, col. 5, line 49) and then inclining the sample holder to allow the solution to flow down the sample holder and off of the sample. Tomiita et al. also disclose that other than filling the tray-type sample holder, the dipping step "may be effected by spraying the ionized water onto the sample held on the sample holder in the inclined state as in the case of cleaning, or by immersing for a predetermined time the sample holder together with the sample in a bath of the ionized water contained in a separate ionized water tank and then lifting the sample holder." Col. 5, lines 44 – 48. None of these methods, however, disclose or suggest "wetting the test specimen with a corrosive solution such that drops form on a surface of the test specimen," as recited in claim 19.

Not to be limited by the specific examples provided in Applicant's disclosure, by providing drops on the test specimen, the solution can puddle, which more accurately simulates the conditions of an automobile trunk, top or hood in that rain does not easily run off those substantially flat horizontal surfaces so that the droplets dry in place. See paragraph [0018] of Applicants' disclosure. None of the cited references disclose any suggestion to modify Tomiita et al. such that the test specimen is wetted with a corrosive solution such that drops form on the surface of the test specimen. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 19 and those claims that depend from claim 19 are patentable over the cited references.

### ***New Claims***

Claim 35 is similar to original claim 26, but it is not the same. Claim 35 should be found patentable for at least those reasons that claim 19 should be found patentable. Moreover, claim 35 recites "controlling the air temperature in the test chamber using the multiple blower system." No prior art rejections were raised in the Office action with regard to a multiple blower system. Accordingly, Applicants submit that new claim 35 should be found patentable over the cited references.

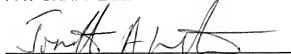
Claim 36 should be found patentable for depending from an allowable independent claim.

### CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all claims remaining in the application are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early indication of the same is earnestly solicited. In any event, should the Examiner consider personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

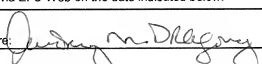
Respectfully submitted,

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May 5, 2008  
Date

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